



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 70

Release Date: December 6, 2005

New Rules to Govern Temporary Judges in California Courts

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California has approved a comprehensive set of rules to improve the quality and training of attorneys who serve as temporary judges in state trial courts.

Adopted at a public meeting last Friday, the rules will govern the selection, training, appointment, supervision and evaluation of temporary judges. They will ensure the quality of temporary judging by establishing minimum education and experience requirements.

The rules will take effect on July 1, 2006. Temporary judges must satisfy all the new requirements concerning qualifications and training by January 1, 2007.

Hundreds of temporary judges regularly serve in trial courts each month in small claims, traffic, family, and juvenile cases. Under the state Constitution, attorneys may be appointed as temporary judges by the courts with the agreement of the parties in a case.

The rules result from a year-long study and recommendations made by a statewide working group appointed by William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the California Courts.

Before adopting the rules, the council referred provisions concerning financial disclosure, disqualification, and past service to the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics for further consideration.

The full report is available on the California Courts Web site at:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/documents/reports/1202item14.pdf>.

OTHER ACTIONS

In other actions, the Judicial Council:

- **Transfer Implementation Procedures:** Approved procedures for

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implementing the transfer of trial court facilities from the counties to the state under the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002. The procedures will be used statewide.

- **Modifications to Court Facilities:** Approved a policy for prioritizing, budgeting, funding, and implementing modifications to appellate and trial court facilities that have transferred title and/or responsibility to the state. This policy will guide requests for small alterations, minor renovations, and repairs of courthouses. It supports the Judicial Council's long-range goal to provide safe and secure facilities and improve existing court facilities to allow adequate, suitable space to conduct court business.
- **Proposed Amendments to Article VI:** Approved a proposal to amend Article VI of the state Constitution to improve access to justice and improve accountability within the judicial branch for the fair and effective administration of justice. (See <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter/newsreleases/NR68-05.PDF>.)

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

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